

Misael Silvas
Norwalk, CT

HB 6616: An Act Concerning the Expansion of Husky's Health Care Benefits
for those who are ineligible due to their Immigration Status.

Dear members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

My name is Misael Silvas, I am married, I have 2 daughters, I am a Domestic Worker, I am a member of the organization Comunidades sin Fronteras and Recovery for All, which fights for the rights of workers and immigrants in Connecticut.

I am in favor of HB 6616: An Act Concerning the Expansion of Husky's Health Care Benefits for those who are ineligible due to their Immigration Status. In May, I arrived at an emergency room with severe pain and bleeding, which led to stent placement and hospitalization and a four-day hospitalization. While I was hospitalized, I filled out an application for the hospital, for a state assistance program for payment of inpatient and outpatient acute care services. The stent was to be removed after two weeks, but the application for the Charity Care program had been lost. I was told I would have to reapply or pay a high out-of-pocket bill.

My inability to pay for services and my difficulties in reapplying for the payment program meant that I was unable to obtain timely medical care. My appointments were repeatedly rescheduled and canceled. I continued to have severe pain and bleeding, and the stent became infected. At that point, I was in a very fragile state, I was very frustrated, scared, and I didn't know what was going to happen to me and my health. I was then hospitalized a second time. It goes to show that medical care is not always aligned with providing quality care to those in need.

I support HB 6616 and hope that by listening to our stories, you will feel in your heart the harsh reality of being undocumented immigrants. I hope you feel in your heart the harsh reality that we live in as undocumented immigrants. We need you to make the right decision for our families today.

Thank you for listening to our voices.

Misael Silvas.
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